

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LOUIS FINKEL

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2001*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to Louis Finkel, my legislative director. Louis has been an invaluable member of my staff for almost six years. Replacing him will be a daunting task.

Louis has mastered every task and legislative priority I have assigned to him over the years. His hard work, loyalty and dedication have been instrumental in my work as a Congressman. I, along with every other member of my staff, will miss his contribution.

Louis' insight and analysis were key ingredients in every major legislative initiative with which I have been involved over the past six years. He has helped my efforts to finance a world class system of greenways and river trails in Middle Tennessee, expand and renovate the Stones River National Battlefield, restore environmentally sensitive wetlands, and begin a critically needed commuter rail system linking Nashville, Tennessee, with the surrounding suburban and rural populations.

Louis, like many bright and talented congressional staff members, is moving on to a career in public affairs. I'm confident his career there will be as successful as his career as a congressional aide. He undoubtedly will serve his clients as well as he has served me and my constituents in Middle Tennessee. I wish him well.

### HONORING J&L VINEYARDS AS AG BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J&L Vineyards as Baker, Peterson & Franklin, Certified Public Accountants' Ag Business of the Year. J&L Vineyards is honored for its contributions to the ag industry and the Central San Joaquin Valley.

J&L Vineyards was selected by a committee of representatives of the AgFresno Advisory Board, National Ag Marketing Association, and the BP&F Ag Department. The family business is owned and operated by Don Laub and his daughter Debbie Jacobsen. Don's wife, Clara; son, David, daughter Diane Tavares; and Debbie's husband, Ray are also involved with the company. What began in the late 1930's as a 20-acre raisin farm has expanded to ten varieties of table, raisin, and wine grapes on 1,050 acres. J&L Vineyards has also grown beyond the Laub family to include ten full-time employees.

It is J&L Vineyards' efficiency and innovation that has earned it this recognition. These

commitments can be seen by the business' integrated pest management, trellis design for table grapes, and higher yield with fewer inputs. Beyond agriculture and business, J&L Vineyards has exemplified a commitment to the community in which it has thrived. Family members have served on many boards including the Allied Grape Growers, California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom, California Women in Agriculture, and Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge J&L Vineyards as the recipient of the 2001 Ag Business of the Year. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this company and wishing it many more years of continued success.

### HONORING THE COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, CHAPTER OF KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

#### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2001*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, since 1953 one organization in particular has been striving to bring communities together, by developing proactive projects that encourage responsibility for environment enhancement and encompass the values of community pride. Keep America Beautiful has become an international organization that seeks to empower our citizens, by implementing programs ranging from litter prevention to improving entire cities through training, education, and action.

Keep America Beautiful has almost 500 local, state, and international affiliates in 40 states, and is continuing to grow every day.

I stand today, to recognize Keep America Beautiful's chapter in Cobb County, Georgia, as the winner of this year's affiliate award in the category for population of more than 500,001.

Cobb County has excelled with programs such as on-line litter reporting service, the Litter Line, where residents can report illegal dumps, excessive trash, or graffiti. This initiates a faster clean-up response time, and provides a useful tracking device for area officials. Keep Cobb Beautiful also stood out with its Cobb Trees program in which over 90 trees were planted at five different sites, incorporating over 150 volunteers.

I ask my fellow Members of the House to join me in congratulating, Keep Cobb Beautiful's progress and hard work. May the example they have set for the state of Georgia and the country as a whole continue to spread.

### RICK BLANKENSHIP

#### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2001*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a Floridian and a Member of Congress, I am thrilled to see that Mr. Blankenship is going to be the next Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. A community activist and advocate for children and local schools, I am certain he will serve our country honorably.

Mr. Blankenship's qualifications, which include over 20 years of experience in the private sector and years of work with Caribbean nations, make him a perfect fit for this position. His leadership in the area of international trade should benefit both countries, and his experience with air and port security will be a great asset at this critical time.

You know, the Bahamas is only 45 miles from the coast of Florida. My state has a special relationship with the island, as well as the Caribbean in general. And not only does the United States have close economic ties to the island, we also share ethnic and cultural ties, especially in education. And although many people outside the U.S. view us as "the ugly Americans" or "imperialists," I think that Mr. Blankenship could do a lot to improve our already friendly relations with the island. His concern for improving education and for children proves that he is a man that is concerned about people, and kids in particular. I know he will serve well as a link between our two countries.

I would like to close by once again congratulating Mr. Blankenship and wish him the best in his new position!

### HONORING SOUTH SALT LAKE MAYOR RANDY G. FITTS

#### HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2001*

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Randy G. Fitts for his tireless efforts in representing the City of South Salt Lake.

Mayor Fitts served on the City Council of South Salt Lake from January 1978 to December 1989, and has been Mayor since 1992. He will retire on January 7, 2002, and his leadership and diligent work have been greatly appreciated.

Throughout his tenure as a public servant, Mayor Fitts focused on issues that would increase the quality of life for the residents of South Salt Lake.

Some of the projects he worked on include completion of the Jordan River Parkway, and the renovation of the historic Columbus School, by transforming it into a senior citizens

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